
Correspondence: Mrs. John P. Varnum
(Josephine L. Dyer "Josie"), 1871 - 1888

John P. Varnum Family Papers

1-22-1885

Letter: Mrs. Josephine L. Dyer Varnum to her Mother, January 22, 1885

Josephine L. Dyer Varnum

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tell Mamma the
Cage spring came
with the other things
all o'k think I
told her so at the
time meant to
my way -
Am real glad
my keys are found
I felt sure I had
them in the house
after going out &
had a feeling
that they were
about the machine
somewhere

one of his classes, he brought home
his copy book, he writes in ink
now - and he is doing very nicely
indeed some pages haven't a blot
on them and none are as bad
as I have often seen. not more
than two small ones on any page
and that considering his age and
usual carelessness is quite remark-
able I think. his teacher marks him
9. 9.5- and 10- right along in writing
a good many pages she has marked
10 - the highest mark. Grace is
reading the 50th page in her reader
this evening just after supper
I was helping the children about

their lessons and the tool unscrewed upon having her
chair at the
cattle stand
I had to have
a book and then
she came at the
top of her voice
she gave the
sound of a sheep
in Papa's penny
is a "fer" "bread"
father "boo-baa"
she said Mamma
today real nicely "
"Dacie Dyes Parum
9-30 Standard
time good night
Love to all
Goin

Thursday January 27th 1885
Dear Mamma
I thought you
might enjoy an "episode" so I
have laid aside my mending
for my pen - To begin I shall
have to tell you that Tuesday
we had a big piece of Roast
beef yesterday we had it again
and today I sliced off the best of
it and trained it up in gravy
we had besides sweet potatoes
and rice and there were two
mutton chops and some
cold biscuit and a small pie
which had puffed up in me

place and burned a little in
baking and I had broken off
the little black blister leaving the
pie not so handsome as some

Do you take it all in? —

We were out of Irish potatoes & I
told Johnnie so in the morning but
he forgot them well at one o'clock
everything was ready to put on
the table, except the mutton which
I meant to cook after Johnnie
came in and had the spiders all
hot for; Just then in he popped
with "What have you got for
dinner?" I thought he was hungry
and recited the bill of fare & thought
that it was quite a comfortable
picked up dinner baring the
potatoes when he overwhelmed
me with "I just asked Byrne
to dinner" — Think of it! '!!!'

Lieutenant Byrne has one of
our rooms and boards at the
Carltons. Of course I meet him
quite often in the hall as he
comes and goes but I haven't
much acquaintance, I just did
not know what to do. I under-
stood for ~~first~~ a minute — first
how the brain of a lunatic feels
John couldn't comprehend —
"Why" he said "you have got some
pie haven't you?" As if that poor
little cinged mince-pie was
any sort of an apology for such
a dinner well I then scolded
made some coffee and got on
a clean collar and apron.

John ought to have felt like a
jail-bird.

Archie came home in high
spirits today at the week in my